

## NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.T.E. 05-42

July 26, 2005

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its own motion as to the propriety of the rates and charges by Blackstone Gas Company set forth in Tariffs M.D.T.E. Nos. 80A through 85A, filed with the Department on June 21, 2005, to become effective November 1, 2005.

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On June 21, 2005, pursuant to Blackstone Gas Company, D.T.E. 04-79 (2004), Blackstone Gas Company (“Blackstone” or “Company”) submitted its first annual performance base rate (“PBR”) rate adjustment with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“Department”). The Department has docketed this matter as D.T.E. 05-42.

The Company proposes an increase in normalized revenues of \$37,246, which amounts to a base revenue increase of 4.6 percent. If the Department approves the Company’s tariffs, the proposed rates will result in:

- an increase of \$0.65 per month for residential gas non-heating customers for an average monthly bill; and
- an increase of \$4.88 per month for residential gas heating customers using 150 therms per month in the winter season.

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as indicated below. The Company has requested that the proposed rate increase take effect on November 1, 2005.

A copy of Blackstone's petition is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public view during business hours. Copies are also on file for public view at Blackstone Gas Company, 61 Main Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact counsel for the Company, Andrew J. Newman, Esq., at (617) 330-7000. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Michael Killion, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3500.

Any person who wishes to submit written comments may do so by filing an original and four (4) copies of such comments with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, referencing docket number D.T.E. 05-42, no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, August 17, 2005. One copy must also be sent to Andrew J. Newman, Esq., Rubin and Rudman, 50 Rowes Wharf, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

All comments must also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dte.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dte.efiling@state.ma.us); or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) docket number (i.e., D.T.E. 05-42); (3) name of the person or company filing; and (4) a brief descriptive title or document (e.g., comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in Corel Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix) or an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dte>.